



Wallkill Valley Railroad Trestle at Rosendale [ c 1870s stereo view from the collection of Stephen Marder ] see pg 6

**2007 Membership Dues Notice Inside** see page 11

## Century House Historical Society

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### Officers

President — Dietrich Werner

Vice President — Michael Montella

Secretary — Gayle Grunwald

Treasurer — Kristina Pavlov-Leiching

James Wood — Site Facilities Manager

"Our Website is maintained by **EyesWrite.com**"

### Board of Trustees

Louisa Duffy Gayle Grunwald Michael Montella

Kristina Pavlov-Leiching Dietrich Werner

Anton Werner Anne Gorrick

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## Welcome New Members

482-I Alex Saunders - Garrison, NY

483-I Hope Windle - Rosendale, NY

484-S The City Reliquary Museum - Brooklyn, NY

485-F Teresa & Robert Howe - Rosendale, NY

486-C Lifebridge Sanctuary - Rosendale, NY

138-I Phil Brown - Cottekill, NY Welcome Back!

487-F Joseph & Kathy Walsh - Rosendale, NY

488-F Elaine Mills - Rosendale, NY

489-I Peter Kraft - Glenford, NY

## Additions to the Society Library

40. Die Anlagen der Konigshofer Cement-Fabrik, A. G. in Konigshof bie Beraun, Bohmen. 48 pages, illustrations. Wien. 1911. [Cement Works in Austria. German.]
41. In Memoriam — James W. Atkinson 1839-1904. 37 pages, illustrations. Moline, Ill. 1906. [Atkinson was a director of the Iola Portland Cement Co.]
42. Second Annual Report of the Geological and Agricultural Survey of Texas. S.B. Buckley, State Geologist. Houston, TX. 1876. [Mentions that Rosendale cements extensively used in Austin. copy.]
43. Cement Mills Along the Potomac River. Thomas F. Hahn & Emory L. Kemp. Monograph Series Vol. II, No. 1. West Virginia University Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archaeology. Morgantown, WV. 1994.
44. Catskill Culture. Phil Brown. Temple University Press. Philadelphia. 1998.
45. 100 Years of Cement in Oglesby 1892-1992. Unknown author. 107 pages, illustrations. [A history of the Marquett Cement Co. Possibly published by the Lone Star Corp.]
46. 125 Years Weserhutte A Portait in words and Pictures. Eisenwerk Weserhutte AG. 152 pages, illustrations. Bad Oeynhausen, Germany. 1969. [Weserhutte is a German company that manufactures excavation machinery.]
47. What Concrete Will Do. The Lawrence Cement Co. 194 pages, illustrations. New York. 1910. [The Rosendale works of this company was sold in 1902 to the Consolidated Rosendale Cement Co.]
48. Fifty Years of Progress. Joseph S. Young. Lehigh Portland Cement Co. 32 pages, illustrations. Allentown, PA. 1947.
49. Building for the Future, A 100 Year History of the Lehigh Portland Cement Company 1897-1997. William A. Salmon. 140 pages, illustrations. Kutztown, PA. 1997.

## Message from the President

Great news! We received notice from the Dutchess County Arts Council that the Society has been awarded a grant for next year's (the 17th) Subterranean Poetry Reading in the Widow Jane Mine. The grant will enable us for the first time to publish selections from the poems read by the poets in the Mine. Next years event will be Aug 10th & 11th.

Over seventy-five members and friends of the Society attended the Society's Annual Meeting held at the Rosendale Community Center on December 3rd. The incumbent Board members and officers were reelected to serve another term.

*Regards, Dietrich Werner*



Apple Orchard Punch served by the Society at the Rosendale Chefs Christmas Day Dinner. This year marks the tenth year that Society members have provided the holiday punch at this festive event.

We still have a few copies of Peter Genero's book, **Thank Rosendale**, available. The cost is \$16.65 + \$4.45 S&H (New York State residents must add sales tax)

## 2007 Membership Dues Notice

see page 11



## SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING A CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS!

By Gayle Grunwald

We are happy to report that the Society kept up the tradition of delivering a fun Annual Meeting!

This was the first time that the meeting was held at the Rosendale Community Center. Over seventy-five members and friends had a grand time.

The meeting opened with a report by the secretary which gave highlights of the past season. There were educational programs galore which featured Rosendale geology, water monitoring workshops which made use of the Tan House Brook and many visitors to the museum. Outreach included a special exhibit on the history of tourism installed by the Society in the lobby of the Ulster County office building in Kingston.

There are two things that draw a crowd: good food and good "junk"! The Society offered both of these ingredients with two successful fundraisers last summer: The Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social and the Treasure Bazaar Sale at the Rosendale Street Fest.

Bringing great applause was the announcement of a grant through the office of State Senator John Bonacic for the urgently needed new roof for the museum building. The funding will be administered through the New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. A major celebration will be in order upon the completion of the project.

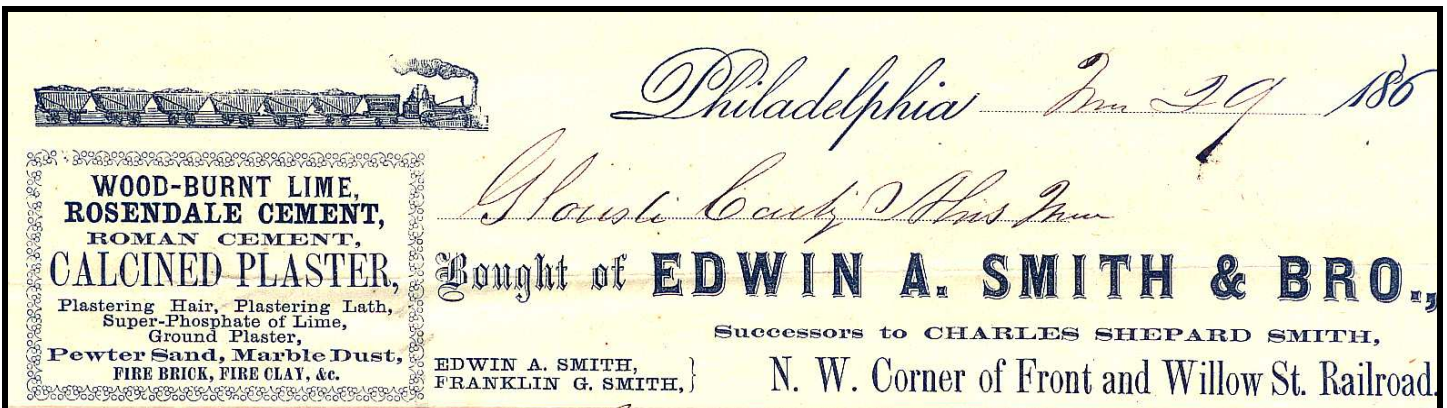
Examples of cultural programs enjoyed by the public included the Poets Fest and the Shape Note Singing School. This was the first year the Society hosted the singing school. The school is a wonderful way to attract a new group of talented people to the site.

A special joy during the meeting was the presentation of the 2006 Recognition Awards. Pam Bell and Helen Sulko received awards for their volunteer efforts in fund raising for the Society. As a token of appreciation, they received gift cards. The Family of Gary Schwartz and The Family of Kenneth Roosa were recognized for their important contributions of archival material.

Member Tim Morrison served as Ballot Chair for the election of trustees to the board. Louisa Duffy, Kristina Pavlov-Leiching, Gayle Grunwald and Anton Werner were elected for a two year term. Officers for 2007 will be President: Dietrich Werner, Vice-President: Michael Montella, Treasurer: Kristina Pavlov-Leiching and Secretary: Gayle Grunwald.

During the Penny Social, one lucky winner went home with an authentic Rosendale Cement Bag. Lots of prizes donated by members kept the ticket action hopping. Peter Genovese and board member Anne Gorrick M.C.'d the Penny Social and described each prize with professional flare.

After adjournment of the meeting, the program: Roosa's Rosendale: Floods, Fun and Community was presented by Dietrich Werner. People offered their memories of the people and places that were shown in the presentation which included photographs taken by Kenneth Roosa over a fifty year period.



*Philadelphia Jan 29 1860*  
*Gustavus Corbly & Sons New York*  
 Bought of **EDWIN A. SMITH & BRO.**,  
 Successors to CHARLES SHEPARD SMITH,  
 N. W. Corner of Front and Willow St. Railroad

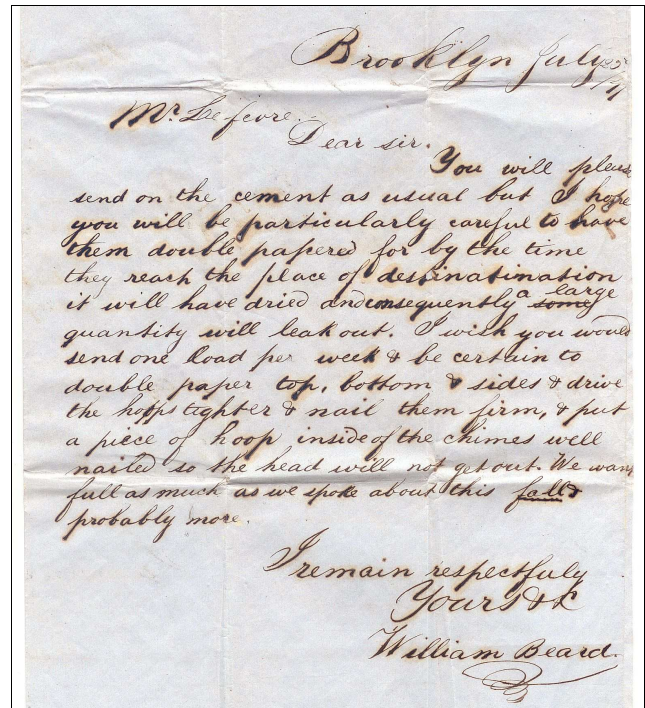
**WOOD-BURNT LIME,  
 ROSENDALE CEMENT,  
 ROMAN CEMENT,  
 CALCINED PLASTER,**  
 Plastering Hair, Plastering Lath,  
 Super-Phosphate of Lime,  
 Ground Plaster,  
 Pewter Sand, Marble Dust,  
 FIRE BRICK, FIRE CLAY, &c.

EDWIN A. SMITH,  
 FRANKLIN G. SMITH, }

We have discovered another dealer in Rosendale Cement. The 1860s Edwin A. Smith & Bro. invoice shows that they offered American made cement (Rosendale) and imported cement (Roman) as well as other building materials. Both the Rosendale and the Roman were natural cements. It is possible that the Rosendale Cement sold by Smith & Bro. was manufactured by David Saylor [see *Natural News* Fall 2005 issue] in Coplay, Pa.

## William Beard Wants More Rosendale Cement 1847 Letter Found

The Society recently purchased from Paul Bourke, a stamp dealer in Ashland, Mass, an interesting postal history item. The letter was sent just three weeks after the introduction



of the first United State postage stamps on July 1, 1847. Because the message and the address were all on one sheet of paper it is known as a SFL or stampless folded letter. Three generations of Peter C. LeFever's [b. Nov. 16, 1805, d. Aug. 8, 1891.] family were involved in the cement business. Peter's father, Cornelius LeFever, had leased to Hugh White in 1837 a lot of land near White's cement quarry and road to White's kilns. Peter's nephews, R & C.I. LeFever were to later become the owners of a cement works and after the closure of the cement works continued as dealers in cement on Main Street Rosendale. William Beard the writer of this letter requested LeFever to ship one load of cement per week and to make the cement barrels tighter. William Beard was a paving contractor who was to have a major impact on the marshy shoreline of the Red Hook section of Brooklyn. Beard was connected with the filling in of Red Hook's marshlands and the construction of the Atlantic Basin in the 1840s. He also built wharves in the nearby Erie Basin. In 1864 he sold his property to the Erie Basin Dock Company.



160 years later the Atlantic Basin area is zoned M2-1 a Significant Maritime & Industrial Area in Brooklyn's Waterfront Revitalization Program. [map: NYC Dept. of City Planning]

At Creek Locks 1909. The former Delaware & Hudson Canal (High Falls to Eddyville section) was purchased from Samuel Decker Coykendall in 1902 by the Consolidated Rosendale Cement Company in 1902. Peter C. LeFever's home is the white building in the center of this photograph. The building in the center was a store and the Creek Locks post office in 1875. The small white building on the right is the lock tenders house. [photo: G. Constantine Collection]



## 1898 Providence, R.I. Irish Patriotic Publication Contains Advertisement for Hoffman Rosendale Cement

# MANCHESTER & HUDSON, Masons' Materials.

Alpha Portland Cement, Hoffman Rosendale Cement, Cobb's Eastern Lime, King's Windsor Cement, Dry Mortar, Common Pressed and Fire Brick, Calcined Plaster, Blue Stone, Cistern Covers, Mortar Colors, Land Tile, etc.



Offices: 55 Point Street, 35 Weybosset Street.

**PROVIDENCE, R. I.**

*Ireland's Past and Present Leaders. Patriots and Martyrs* is wonderful publication chock full of Irish political history. It was printed in 1898 by Chaffee-McIndoe Co., in Providence, R.I. Of note are the advertisements in this publication. Hoffman Rosendale Cement and Alpha Portland Cement are offered in an advertisement by Manchester & Hudson, a Providence masons' supply house. Manchester & Hudson are listed in the *Directory of American Cement Industries* (pg 413) under the classification of Cement Dealers. B.H. Hathaway [concreter & roofer, concreting walks, driveways, and cellars] is also mentioned in the 1901 *Directory* (pg 512) under a listing of contractors and large users of cement.

It is interesting to note the large number of masons and contractors that advertised in the patriotic publication. A partial list follows: Smith and Pool, Carpenters, Jobbers, and Stair Builders, all kinds of fitting up, located at 54 Friendship St.; M.L. Watson & Son, Contractors, Excavating, Grading & General Teaming, at 104 Mawney St.; Frederick E. Shaw, General Contractor, Sewers, Water Works, Foundations, etc., at 160 Atlantic Ave., corner Melrose St.;

Charles A. Vallie, Grocer, Contractor & Builder located in Cranston, R.I.O; The C.R. Blackmar Co., General Contractors, Sanitary Plumbing and Drain Laying, at 114 Elmwood Ave.; C.S. Pullen, Carpenter & Builder, at 366 New York Ave.; John Deary, licensed Contractor, Sewers & House Drains, at 18 Pearl St.; William E. Waterman, Mason, Contractor & Builder, Brick, Stone & Wood Work, at Johnston, RI; John S. Clark, Jr., Mason and Builder, all kinds of Mason Work, at 8 Blundell St.; Wm. A. Lockwood, Mason & Contractor, all kinds of mason work' in Warwick, RI.

There are also of course the usual advertisements for pills and tonics that promise to cure all chronic complaints. Of special interest is a half page advertisement for snow guards. It appears that this type of snow guard was installed on portions of the roof of Century House at the Snyder Estate during renovations done in 1948.

## The Clason Architectural Metal Works,



WE ARE SOLE MANUFACTURERS OF

### The Celebrated Clason Snow Guard,

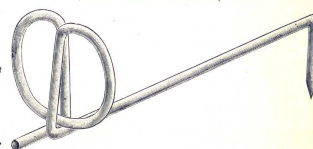
FOR SLATE, SHINGLE, AND METAL ROOFS.

THE BEST THING ON THE MARKET. • IN USE EVERYWHERE.

Estimates Furnished Anywhere in the New England or Eastern States.

MANUFACTURERS OF  
ALL KINDS OF  
ORNAMENTAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE METAL WORK,  
CORNICES, BAY WINDOWS,  
Copper and Galvanized Iron Fronts, Metal  
Ceilings, Skylights, Ventilators,  
Finials, Etc.

ALSO,  
SLATE AND METAL ROOFERS,  
Tin, Tar and Gravel, Etc.



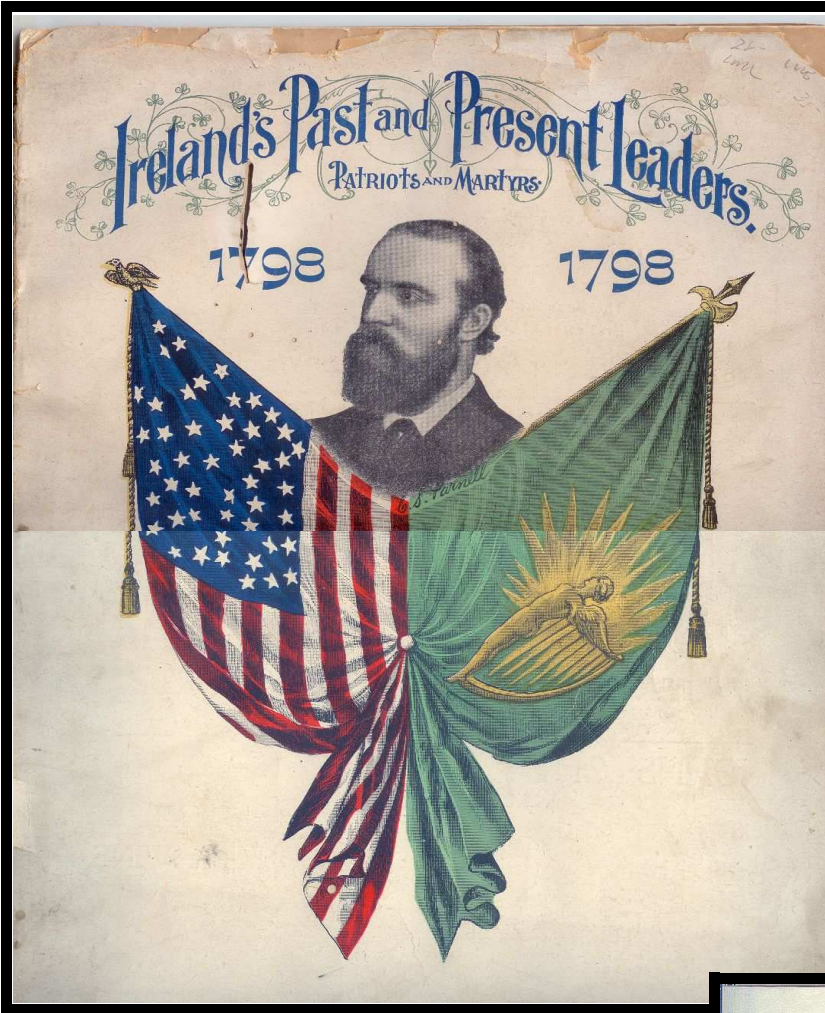
Below we mention a few of our recent contracts.

Providence Institution for Savings, Stone, Carpenter & Willson, Architects.  
Providence Public Library, Stone, Carpenter & Willson, Architects.  
Masonic Building, Pawtucket, R. I., Wm. R. Walker & Son, Architects.  
East Side High School, Providence, R. I., Martin & Hall, Architects.  
Boys' Club, Fall River, Mass., J. M. Darling, Architect.

R. I. Hospital, Providence, R. I., Stone, Carpenter & Willson, Architects.  
St. Joseph's Hospital, Providence, R. I., Wm. R. Walker & Son, Architects.  
Worcester Lunatic Asylum, Fuller, Delano & Frost, Architects.  
Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Providence, R. I., Heine & LaFarge, Arc'ts.  
Hudner Block, Fall River, Mass., F. H. Woodward, Architect.

Office and Works, 281 Canal Street, Providence, R. I.





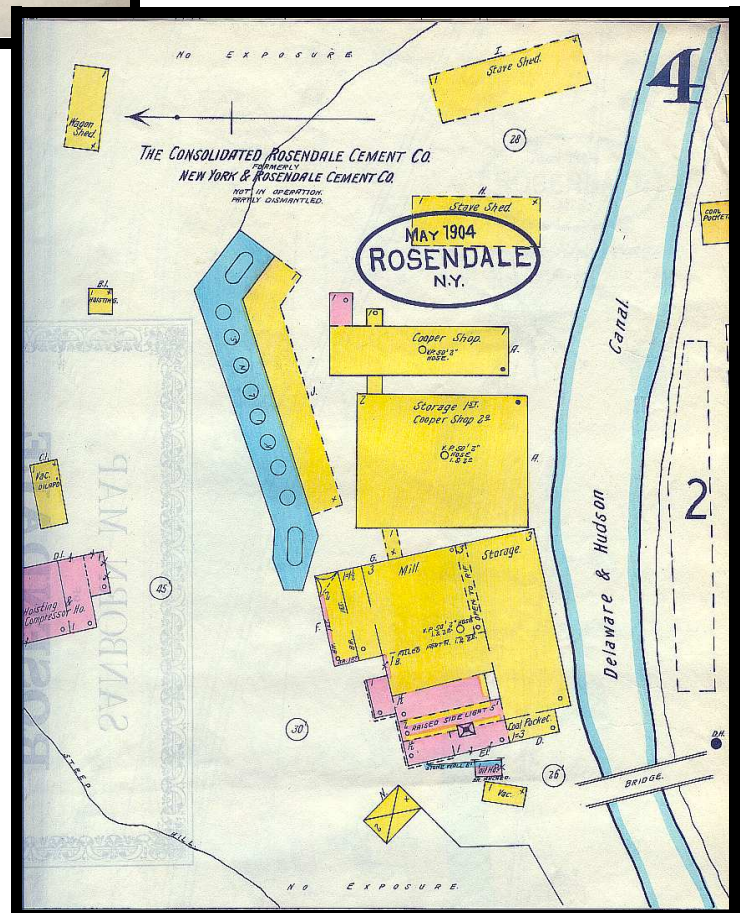
Part III of the history of the Milwaukee Cement Company will be in the Spring 2007 issue of *Natural News*.

<<<<< Cover of the Providence, R.I. Irish Patriotic Publication. See page 5

Below. One section of page four of the 1904 Sanborn map showing the Delaware & Hudson canal, kilns and buildings of the cement works located in what is today Rosendale's Willow Kiln Park.



This view of a southbound Wallkill Valley Railroad mixed freight and passenger train is from a stereo view card from the collection of Society member Stephen Marder. Stephen often shares unique items from his collections of Wallkill Valley Railroad and Delaware & Hudson Canal images and documents. This early view shows the southern face of Joppenbergh Mountain before cement rock mining had begun at that location.







## 1892 & 1904 Rosendale Maps

Bound volumes of the Sanborn maps for the Town of Rosendale for the year 1892 and 1904 have been added to the Society's archive. These two volumes were originally purchased by Girard L. McEntee, brother of Jervis McEntee renowned painter, son of James S. McEntee, civil engineer who helped build the Delaware and Hudson canal.

Each page of the Sanborn map has very detailed full color maps of the various Rosendale area cement works as well the street maps of the village area of Rosendale and High Falls. Because the maps were updated every six to seven years they help document the growth and ultimate decline of the Rosendale natural cement industry.

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### May 1904 Sanborn Map of Rosendale, N.Y. Showing the following cement works.

- \*1. Consolidated Rosendale Cement Co. Former Lawrenceville Cement Co. on Binnewater Road. **Operating.**
- \*2. Consolidated Rosendale Cement Co. Former F.O. Norton Cement Co. at High Falls. **Vacant.**
- \*3. Connelly & Shafer's cement mill. At Greenkill. **Ruins.**
- \*4. Consolidated Rosendale Cement Co. Former F.O. Norton Cement Co. at Binnewater. **Operating.**
- 5. R. & C. I. Lefever Lime & Cement Mill at Creek Locks. **Not in operation. [also not in operation Sep. 1892]**
- \*6. Consolidated Rosendale Cement Co. Former New York & Rosendale Cement Co. in village. Not operating, **partly dismantled.**
- \*7. A.J. Snyder & Sons at Lawrenceville. **Operating.**
- \*8. W.T. Van Tassell Cement Co. at Lawrenceville. **Vacant.**
- \*9. Consolidated Rosendale Cement Co. Former Lawrence Cement Co. at Lawrenceville. **Not running.**
- 10. New York Cement Co. at Tillson. **Operating.**
- \*11. Consolidated Cement Co. Former Newark and Rosendale Cement Co. at Whiteport. **Vacant.**
- \*12. D.A. Barnhart High Falls Cement Co. at High Falls. **Closed**
- \*13. Bruceville Cement Works, J.H. Vandermarks. **Not in operation.**
- \*14. New York Cement Co. at LeFever Falls or Rock Lock. **Not in operation and vacant.**
- \*15. Lawrence Cement Co. Rock Lock Mill at LeFever Falls. **Not in operation. and vacant.**
- \*16. Consolidated Rosendale Cement Co. Former Lawrence Cement Co at Binnewater. **Operating.**

The cement works marked with a asterisk denote works that are shown as in operation in the September 1892 Sanborn Map of Rosendale.



## Field Trip to the Birthplace of American Natural Cement

The Third American Natural Cement Conference is to be held in Syracuse this September. It is in the vicinity of Syracuse along the original route of the Eire canal (the canal has been moved northward to Oneida Lake) that Canvass White discovered the proper limestone suitable for making hydraulic cement.

The published history of this event has different versions of who the discoverers were, what they did, and even to where the discovery was made with several localities making the claim that the discovery was made on nearby farm.

Winter this year seemed to not want to arrive, so Ken Uracius and I thought that a trip to the Syracuse area should be made to see if we could find traces of the mines, quarries, kilns and possible other remains of this industry.

We knew that Canvass White and his younger brother Hugh White manufactured cement near Chittenango, Madison county, for at least ten years, possibly for as long as fifteen years. We know that Canvass supplied cement for construction of locks, aqueducts, etc., starting in 1819 and continued to specify his cement to just before his death in 1835.

Ken is from Massachusetts, settled in 1620, I am from the Mid Hudson Valley of New York settled shortly after Henry Hudson's discovery of the river which bears his name in 1609. We were now exploring the early history of towns which had just been settled at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

We had planned our trip so that we would arrive in time for the opening of the local libraries and historical societies. We had visions of finding the mother lode of local history relating to the natural ce-



**Chittenango Falls - post card mail September 20, 1925**

ment industry. I had the feeling that if I stopped any passerby on the sidewalk and asked about Canvass White or natural cement that there would be instant recognition of White's name and directions to the location of his cement works. Well that didn't happen. Natural Cement? Portland Cement? Canvass White? Not a topic that rang any bells. We did quickly learn the author of the Wizard of Oz was born in Chittenango and that the Fayetteville library is housed in the former Stickley furniture factory. The librarians and staff at the local historical societies were very helpful in giving us access to the local history rooms and archives. At the Manlius Historical Society we found several ledgers and company records (approx. 1870s-1900) of James Behan, manufacturer of Manlius Brand Natural Hydraulic Cement. That was a wonderful discovery which I hope to be able to revisit another time.

Since we were not having the best of luck finding old documents we thought a search for the locations of some of these cement works would be in order. In Rosendale I have not as yet had to use a snow shovel this winter. Lake effect. I had never really given that term any thought. But now I know what it means. Temperature in Albany was 40 degrees and sunny. As we got near Syracuse the temperature was not all that much colder but snow, I mean snow like I have never seen snow. Every time we would stop to take a look at a rock outcrop for cement rock it was whiteout time. Even finding the falls at Chittenango was a challenge. Good thing we left when we did as the news reports that there is near ten feet of snow in some areas. But I am sure that we will be back after the snow melts in the spring. [dew]





Peter C. LeFever's at Creek Locks 1909

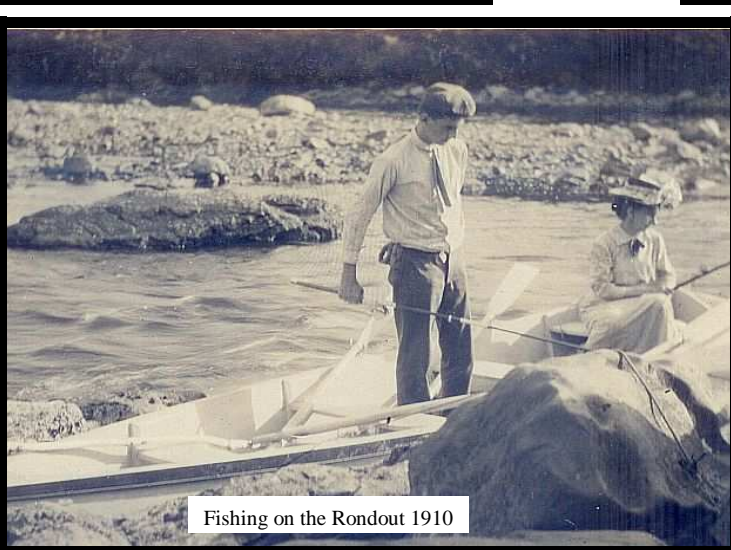


Cement Mine 1909

**A  
Creek  
Locks  
Photo  
Album  
1909  
\*  
1923**



A Creek Locks Winter 1923



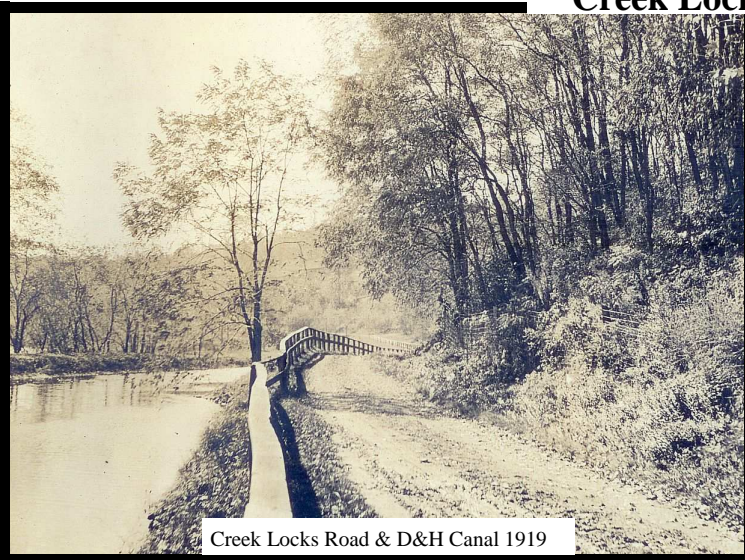
Fishing on the Rondout 1910

Thanks to Gabriel Constantine who gave the Society permission to scan his collection of 124 photos taken between 1909 and 1923 in the Creek Locks area of Rosendale. Creek Locks (once known as Wagendall)

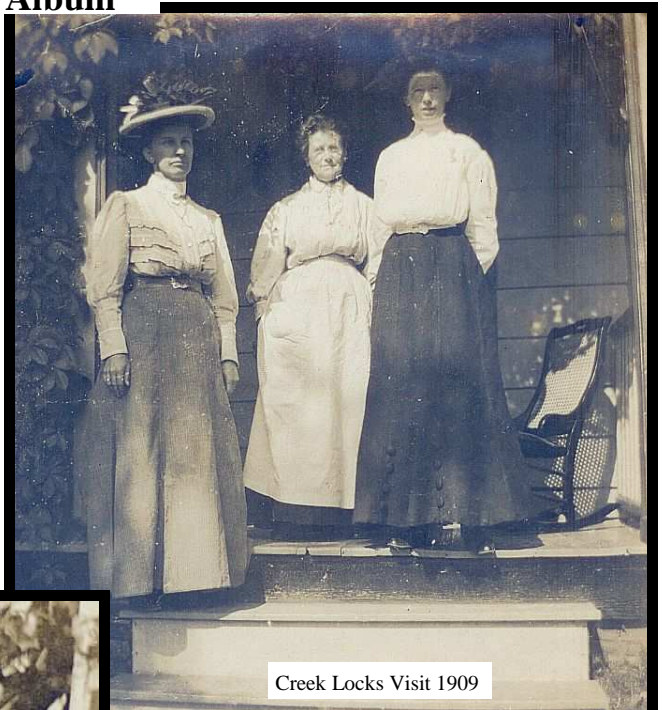
was one of the earliest settled areas of Rosendale. The photos show the continued use of the former D&H canal by the Consolidated Rosendale Cement Co. The photos are all on a CD and available for study at the Society's ever growing collection of photographic images of the Rosendale cement region. We are also working on scanning a large selection of photographs and documents provided to the Society by Richard Ross.



# Creek Locks Album



Creek Locks Road & D&H Canal 1919



Creek Locks Visit 1909



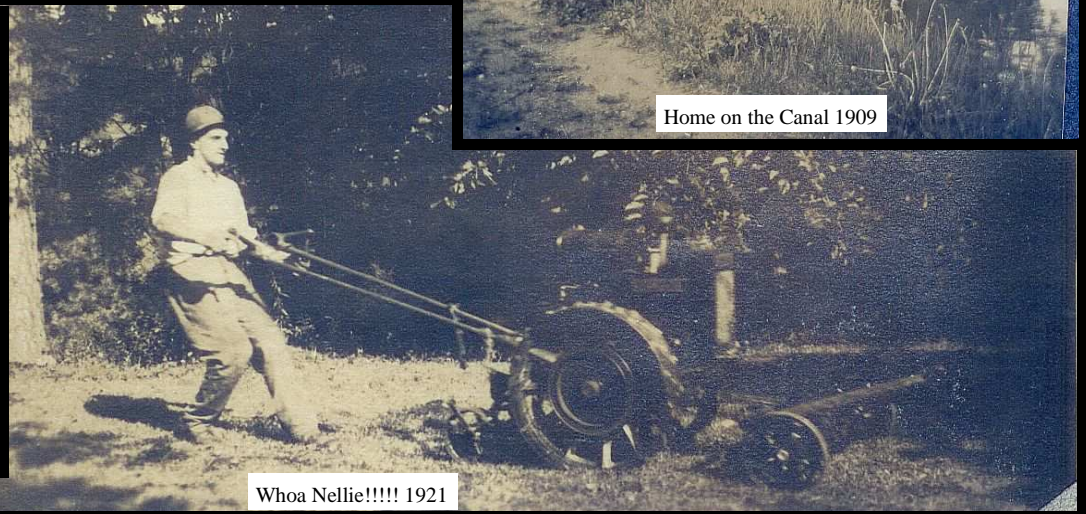
Grape Harvest 1921



Home on the Canal 1909



Meditation on the Rondout 1909



Whoa Nellie!!!! 1921





Detail from 1896 advertising Cover  
From CHHS Collections

## May I Speak with You?

**Hello folks. We hope that you will enjoy reading your copy of *Natural News* as much as we enjoyed putting it together. But don't forget to send your 2007 dues. Why not take the opportunity while paying your dues of sending an additional donation? Your support **WILL MAKE HISTORY** !**

*Sincerely, Dietrich Werner*

## MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2007 ARE DUE

Membership number:

Name:

Address:

Individual..... \$15  
Family.....\$25  
Corporate/Business.....\$150

Please fill in your email address and Phone number

Phone: .....

2007 \_\_\_\_\_

2006 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: .....

2005 \_\_\_\_\_

Dues \$.....

*Make checks payable to: Century House Historical Society*

Additional donation \$ .....Total enclosed \$.....

*Please send your dues in the envelope provided to:*

*Century House Historical Society*

*A.J. Snyder Estate*

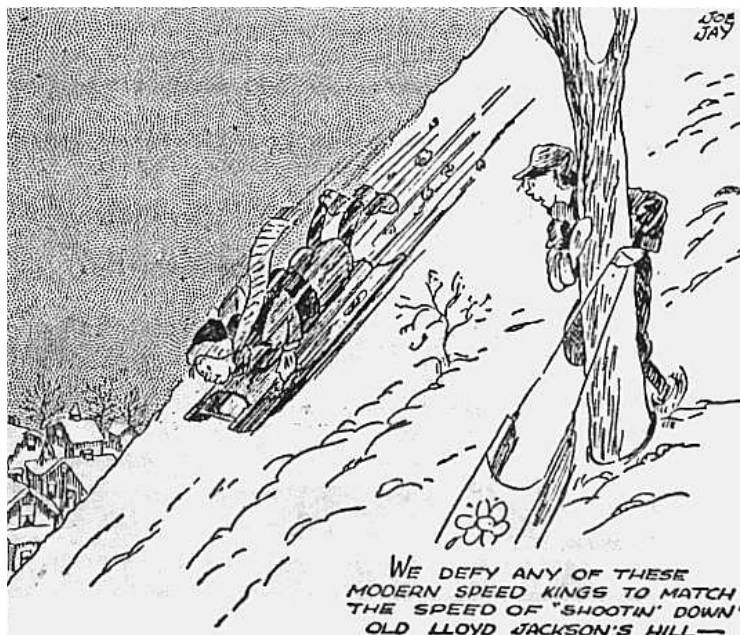
*Rosendale, NY 12472-0150*



## CENTURY HOUSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### ★EVENTS★

Look for  
2007  
membership  
renewal  
notice  
inside.



We are  
closed for the  
winter.

We re-open  
on Mother's  
Day.

Cartoon from  
December 11, 1937  
Rosendale Ledger.